

## BOOK REVIEWS

**A Short History of Botany in the United States.** *Joseph Ewan*, Editor. Hafner Publishing Company, New York and London (Darien, Connecticut). 1969. 174 p. \$7.50.

This book was prepared so that its publication would coincide with the XIth International Botanical Congress, held in Seattle, Washington, in August, 1969, at which time it was issued in a special paperback edition. Thirteen areas of special botanical interest and development are each treated as a chapter: Morphology and Anatomy by Sherwin Carlquist; Plant Genetics and Cytology by Conway Zirkle; Plant Physiology by Sterling B. Hendricks; Phycology by William Randolph Taylor; Plant Pathology and Mycology by Kenneth F. Baker; Bryology and Lichenology by Emanuel D. Rudolph; Pteridology by Rolla Tryon; Paleobotany by Chester A. Arnold; Taxonomy by Charles B. Heiser, Jr.; Plant Geography by Joseph Ewan; Plant Ecology by Paul B. Sears; Horticulture by George H. M. Lawrence; and Medical Botany by Jerry Stannard.

The important trends of these botanical fields are traced in each chapter, with information on important developments, principal investigators, and significant dates. Most of the histories extend to the present day, providing a background for current research.

Special features by editor Ewan include: (1) an annotated "Calendar of Events," in which, in this concise chronology, representative notations characterize the trends in the growth of the plant sciences from about 300 B.C. through 1968; and (2) a chapter on "Early History," in which he summarizes the role of the Bartrams in the early period of botany. In this latter chapter, all United States botanical history is divided into eight epochs of varying duration, characterized by persons or movements that influenced each. However, only the first six epochs, or until about the year 1860, are discussed in any detail. The contributed chapters concentrate more on the immediate past 100 years.

A list of 106 selected readings not only provides documentation for much of the material presented in the several chapters, but also gives the reader additional references for many topics, both general and specific. In some chapters, there are, however, citations of author references with dates that are not included in this list, and one wonders what the more complete citation should be. An index to persons with their life's dates and page numbers where they are mentioned in the book concludes the work. Because this book deals in a concise way with the history of significant fields of botanical science, it should prove useful to both professionals and amateurs who are seeking an introduction to the historical background of each subject in the United States, and its development from the beginning to the present day.

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**The Woody Plants of Ohio.** *E. Lucy Braun*. Hafner Publishing Company, New York. 1969 (facsimile of 1961 edition). 362 p. \$16.50.

Professional and amateur naturalists in eastern North America will be pleased to learn of the republication of this excellent book. The text of *The Woody Plants of Ohio* is easily understandable to the untrained person; technical terms are clearly explained in the introduction, and in notes throughout the text. However, the scientific value of the book is not allowed to suffer through oversimplification or incompleteness. The professional botanist will find *Woody Plants* to be a valuable reference work and aid to identification.

Identification keys are provided for all woody species known to be native or naturalized in Ohio. Many of the more commonly planted exotic species are also included. Several herbaceous or semi-woody species are included in order to make complete the treatment of primarily woody genera, as in the case of *Cornus canadensis*. Winter keys are included for many deciduous groups. Short descriptions of the genera and of native species, clear line drawings, and maps of the distribution of native species in Ohio are further aids to identification.

In cases where the standard works on the northeastern flora do not agree in their taxonomic treatments of certain groups, synonymy is given. Difficult groups, such as *Crataegus* and *Rubus*, are treated conservatively.

The introductory portion of *The Woody Plants of Ohio* treats in some detail the geology, climatology, and glacial history of the State, and the relationship of the natural vegetation to these factors. Several maps help to clarify this discussion.

The book is clearly printed on glossy paper. Line drawings and range maps are for the most part clearly reproduced. The binding is cloth. The dimensions of the book are somewhat large to allow it to be conveniently used as a field guide.

*The Woody Plants of Ohio* is in many ways a model of what a good survey of a state flora should be. Anyone seriously interested in the natural history of the State of Ohio should have this book in his library.

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